

## Obama: 'We're not gonna balance the budget in 10 years'

By Rachel Weiner , Updated: March 12, 2013

President Obama defended his own budget plans and attacked House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan's in an interview with ABC News Tuesday night.

Ryan [released a budget](#) Tuesday that balances in 2023, using both deep cuts to health-care spending and the tax increases in the bipartisan deal passed at the beginning of the year.

"My goal is not to chase a balanced budget just for the sake of balance. My goal is how do we grow the economy, put people back to work, and if we do that we are going to be bringing in more revenue," Obama [told George Stephanopoulos](#).

The Republican plan to balance the budget in 10 years, he argued, wouldn't work.

"We're not gonna balance the budget in 10 years because if you look at what Paul Ryan does to balance the budget, it means that you have to voucherize Medicare, you have to slash deeply into programs like Medicaid, you've essentially got to either tax middle class families a lot higher than you currently are, or you can't lower rates the way he's promised."

Obama plans to release [his own budget plan](#) in April, two months after the president is required to announce his budget priorities to Congress. A spokesman for House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) suggested that the president was "embarrassed to release a budget that never balances."

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